

## Rosenberg Corey

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**From:** don@nwmoore.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** SHS Exhibits  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 860

March 15, 2017

Senate Committee on Human Services,

Dear Committee Members,

As the Father of a daughter with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, long time member and Past President of NAMI of Multnomah and current Vice-President of NorthStar Clubhouse Advisory Board, I strongly urge the passage of Senate Bill 860. Throughout my years of advocacy I have testified on behalf of Mental Health Parity and watched some progress being made, but it pains me to talk with mental health care providers and hear stories of practices of insurance companies that blatantly undermine the intent of the original Oregon Mental Health parity bill and subsequent legislation passed at the federal level. These practices, which Senate Bill 860 is designed to reverse, are what many patients need in order to assure access to resources to help them move forward in their recovery. The practices that this bill would remedy will result providers being available to meet the needs of our fellow citizens.

Two years ago, the son of a very dear friend of mine took actions of ingesting materials that resulted in his untimely death, wrongfully thinking that he would be "cured" by his actions. While he was afforded full "medical" care involving surgeries and blood transfusions, there were not mental health resources available that might have prevented him from taking those illogical actions. These and other situations are not strictly a "medical" problem as there are many therapies that have been proven effective in promoting recovery. That insurers have unreasonably restricted and unfairly reimbursed effective treatments is shameful and harmful to the citizens who are in need.

The harm that can be created by a lack of services are often times well in excess of the resultant harm that can result from failure to access proper treatments and those should be available in the same manner of necessary medical care.

Please act for fairness and equality for those in need of psychiatric care and move Senate Bill 860 forward.

Sincerely,

Don Moore  
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